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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/509,247	09/28/2004	Shunichi Kuroda	12480-000068/US	4500
30593	7590	06/22/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.			PENG, BO	
P.O. BOX 8910			ART UNIT	
RESTON, VA 20195			PAPER NUMBER	

1648

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/509,247	Applicant(s) KURODA ET AL.	
	Examiner Bo Peng	Art Unit 1648	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's preliminary amendment filed on September 24, 2004 is acknowledged.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been amended. New claims 9-16 have been added. Claims 1-16 are pending and are under consideration in the instant application.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.
3. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug that comprises hollow nanoparticles of a particle-forming protein.

Group II, claim(s) 1 and 2, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug comprising an HBsAg.

Group III, claim(s) 1 and 3, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug of claim 3.

Group IV, claim(s) 1, 3 and 4, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug of claim 4.

Group V, claim(s) 1 and 5, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug of claim 5.

Group VI, claim(s) 1 and 6, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug comprising HBsAg and an interferon.

Group VII, claim(s) 1 and 6, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug comprising a hepatocyte growth factor.

Group VIII, claim(s) 1 and 7, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug of claim 7.

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Group IX, claim(s) 1, 2 and 9, drawn to the specific technical feature of a drug comprising an HBsAg and a second gene.

Group X, claim(s) 8, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug of claim 1.

Group XI, claim(s) 10, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug of claim 2.

Group XII, claim(s) 11, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug of claim 3.

Group XIII, claim(s) 12, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug of claim 4.

Group XIV, claim(s) 13, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug of claim 5.

Group XV, claim(s) 14, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug comprising HBsAg and an interferon.

Group XVI, claim(s) 14, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug comprising HBsAg and a hepatocyte growth factor.

Group XVII, claim(s) 15, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug of claim 7.

Group XVIII, claim(s) 16, drawn to the specific technical feature of a disease treating method comprising administering the drug of claim 9.

4. The inventions listed as Group I-XVIII are not related to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. As set forth above, each group requires a special technical feature that is not required by any of the other groups as indicated by claims 8 and 10-16. In accordance with

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37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

5. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

6. In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See “Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b),” 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product

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claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.


7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bo Peng, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-5542. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell, Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0974. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Bo Peng, Ph.D.
June 16, 2006


JEFFREY STUCKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER